

# creweroots

you've not even had xmas yet and  
here's the new year line-up...

Martin Stephenson

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – The Horseshoe



Martin Stephenson is another one of the great songwriters in Britain who deserves much more coverage and praise. He's probably best known for the hits he had with The Daintees back in the 80s when his work was heard regularly alongside Lloyd Cole, Aztec Camera and Prefab Sprout, but Martin always had a rootsier edge than any of these. Their 'Boat To Bolivia' was a personal favourite album of the decade and it's recent remastered re-release drew this comment from the BBC:

Crocodile Cryer, a heartbreakingly bittersweet take, opens the album and showcases everything good about Stephenson's song-writing: melodically strong, effortlessly poignant, intensely private yet incredibly personable. Affecting and soulful song-writing at its very best.

His later work has increasingly drawn on roots, rockabilly, folk and traditional musical sources, and some of his low-key live events have drawn enormous praise. Martin is a writer who doesn't take easy routes out, his lyrics have included controversial topics including lesbianism, Roy Buchanan's alcoholism, miscarriages and working in a slaughter house. He has recently recorded albums in a Scottish church and a disused lighthouse and he continues to be one of our great songwriting treasures.

**Matt Andersen**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – The Horseshoe**



Matt's manager contacted us looking for some dates in the new year and I admit I replied that I'd never heard of him. His manager sent a CD through the post and I was intrigued and hooked in equal measures. His new album sounds like an incredible mix of Van Morrison, John Lee Hooker, Paul Weller and Eric Clapton... Have a listen to half a dozen songs streamed at [www.stubbyfingers.ca/music.php](http://www.stubbyfingers.ca/music.php) and check out 'Working man Blues', 'Something Inbetween' and 'Have You Got The Blues?' and see what we mean.

The Canadian Telegraph-Journal wrote of Matt's new album:

The album finds a great groove right away, with this solid, classic band providing a brilliant backing for Andersen's country-infused blues. It's timeless in its tales and impeccable in its playing. Shuffles, slide licks, tasty picking and full background vocals pillow Andersen's sweet singing.

This should be remarkable show – everyone who enjoyed Dai Thomas last year should turn out for this one. Still can believe we've got the guy coming over from Canada and he's playing Crewe...

**Johnny Dickinson**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Venue tbc**



Right, I admit everything... it's taken a year to get Johnny Dickinson booked in at creweroots. There are several of you guys who we already know have been out to see him play (last time was at Biddulph but the time before that saw a ten year old girl standing transfixed watching the man in the pouring rain in Cumbria at midnight – that should be testament enough for anyone...). Johnny Dickinson is simply THE best slide blues guitar player I've ever seen. His songwriting is terrific and he's a real character too. He's played the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, he's worked and toured with legends like John Martyn, Loudon Wainwright and Jan Akkerman (and personal heroes like Kelly Joe Phelps), and the mighty John Renbourn said:

I'd go a long way to listen to Johnny Dickinson. You hear a lot of good influences in his music but the result is something special. For me his playing really hits the spot.

So, get that mouse a-clicking and head on down to

[www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.aspx?epk\\_id=25797](http://www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.aspx?epk_id=25797) – have a listen to 'Beach Road', 'Into The Deep' and 'Ocean Blues'. Within 24 hours of this creweroots date appearing on Johnny's website we were already answering emails requesting tickets (six months in advance!) and we're hoping we can put this one on at Square One. Either way, this will be one of those names that will crop up in the 'what was the best creweroots night ever' conversations that we seem to be having every other weekend over a pint of Stella...

So, good times ahead! See you all either at Miles Hunt's gig on November 19<sup>th</sup> or in the New Year for Martin Stephenson.

Happy Days,

Richard and Russell